



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

MEMBERS
GINO CRESTA, DPW
S. PETER KANE, PLANNING
RONALD MENDES, PARKING
JAMES POTTS, FIRE
LT. THOMAS STEPHENS, POLICE

MARCH 9, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Time: 10:00 – 11:07 am
Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 22 Monument Avenue
Members Present: J. Potts (Fire), P. Kane (Planning), R. Mendes (Parking Clerk), G. Cresta (DPW), T. Stephens (Police)
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Aileen Cordette (resident), Tracy Williams (resident), Syed Ramim (business owner), Damon Demady (resident)

Meeting called to order at 10:03a by Chair Kane. P. Kane stated the role of the committee to attendees – an advisory committee that reviews traffic requests and provides recommendations to relevant authorities/bodies.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee reviewed the minutes from the February 2 meeting. No comments.

MOTION : by J. Potts to approve Feb 2, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by R. Mendes, unanimously approved.

TRAFFIC & PARKING REGULATORY REQUESTS

The Committee agreed to take items out of order based on residents in attendance interested in each item.

#E – REQUEST FOR “STOP RIGHT ON RED” SIGN (ESSEX ST @ DANVERS RD)

Aileen Cordette said that she comes from Eastman Ave to head onto Danvers Rd. When she's had the green light to go straight onto Danvers Rd, a driver heading south on Essex St turned onto Danvers Rd and almost hit her (driver hadn't made a full stop). Lt. Stephens said that it's required to stop right on red. He noted that the sign would offer a reminder but drivers may likely still not heed it. Lt. Stephens said he'll discuss with Police Chief Madigan to increase enforcement. G. Cresta doesn't want to add a standalone sign because it'll be hit. If there's a traffic light pole that would be feasible, then it'd be worth adding the sign.

MOTION : by P. Kane for Lt. Stephens to work with Chief Madigan to increase enforcement and if there's a location available for the sign to install one by DPW, second by R. Mendes, unanimous.

#B – ON-STREET PARKING CONCERN(GALLOUPES POINT ROAD)

Deputy Chief Potts said that the Fire Dept looked at the situation if vehicles are parked on Galloupes Point Rd and if a fire truck could still access Galloupes Point Terrace. The parked cars made accessing the Terrace impossible. Ms. Williams provided a photo showing a car recently parked right at the bottom of the hill (the Terrace). The committee discussed options to improve access while not impacting on-street parking too much. The committee considered restricting on-street parking all together as well as switching the restriction (so east side allowed on-street parking and west side was no parking). Mrs. Williams was concerned about the impact a change might have to her neighbors. Committee discussed that best option might be for the Police Dept to speak to owners of the vehicles parking on the street in the intersection. If problem persists, Mrs. Williams was asked to contact P. Kane to take the item back up for discussion.

MOTION : by T. Stephens to speak to residents currently parking in that portion of the street and request they park in other portion of the street, seconded by J. Potts, unanimous.

#F – REQUEST TO CHANGE ON-STREET PARKING LIMIT (HUMPHREY STREET)

Mr. Ramim said he and the neighboring businesses would like the parking limit by their stores changed to 30-minute parking from 8a-8p (due to restaurant employees/visitors taking up the spaces for long periods of time). P. Kane stated he's concerned about making the change since the Committee had previously said they want an overall study of Humphrey St before making new parking limit changes. That study has been approved and will occur later this year. R. Mendes agreed that we should wait since the Selectmen are aware of the study and would push any change request back to the Committee. P. Kane confirmed that businesses (and residents) will take part in that study and that Mr. Ramim should absolutely discuss with the study consultants his parking wishes. T. Stephens assured Mr. Ramim that he should notify the Police Dept if any vehicle is parking longer than permitted.

MOTION : by R. Mendes to defer the topic until the traffic study is complete, seconded by J. Potts, unanimous.

#G – REQUEST FOR STOP SIGN INSTALLATIONS (SALEM STREET)

Mr. Demady was requesting that stop signs be installed on Harrison, Dennison, Linden, and Stanley intersections with Salem St. He's seen a lot of drivers that yield rather than stop and his wife had an accident because of it. T. Stephens said that in general you don't install stop signs at T intersection because the road rules say the cars have to yield to enter the road (not required to make a full stop). T. Stephens said the accident noted was due to road conditions (ice) which was a high issue that particular day. He's not aware of there being any significant amount of accidents there. T. Stephens said installing the signs would definitely improve safety but there's a significant amount of T-intersections in town without signs. So the cost to install at all would be high. G. Cresta suggested looking at accident data. T. Stephens said he'll look over the last five years. Mr. Demady said at a minimum a sign at Stanley Road would be very helpful.

MOTION : by J. Potts to table until we have accident data, seconded by R. Mendes, unanimous.

#A – ON-STREET PARKING CONCERN (OVERHILL ROAD)

T. Stephens said he took a look at Overhill Road and thinks parking on the street would be problematic. G. Cresta said the parking's only an issue when there's a big game which is infrequent. The Committee discussed the fact that the road width is very limited on this road and that coupled with the curve of the road makes emergency vehicle access difficult with cars parked on the street.

MOTION : by T. Stephens to institute no parking either side on the curve of Overhill Road, seconded by G. Cresta, unanimous.

#C – ON-STREET HANDICAP PARKING SPACE REQUEST (MIDDLESEX AVENUE @ CLARKE SCHOOL)

G. Cresta stated that the Board of Selectmen has actually taken this item up at a previous meeting. The Selectmen agreed to add an on-street handicap space on Ellis Road (at the intersection with Hampden). Committee doesn't need to further discuss.

#D – REQUEST FOR SPEED BUMPS (FOREST AVENUE)

Elijah Sirota (requestor) wasn't present for the discussion. Committee discussed that adding speed bumps on this roadway isn't feasible. They noted the speed limit is 20 mph. T. Stephens said that the police will be installing the speed advisory sign on Forest Ave in the next couple weeks (as well as Humphrey St entering town from Lynn, Franklin Ave coming off Paradise). T. Stephens confirmed they've increased selective enforcement on Forest Avenue as well.

MOTION : by J. Potts to deny request, seconded by G. Cresta, unanimous.

MAPC PARKING STUDY

P. Kane told the Committee that he was successful in getting a district local technical assistance (DLTA) grant to cover the cost of a parking study and parking management plan for downtown Humphrey St. The study will be performed by MAPC and will start in the late summer, completing by end of year. Meetings will be held with businesses and residents in the study area as well as a general community meeting.

Meeting closed at 11:07a.

S. Peter Kane

Traffic Study Advisory Committee, Chair